Am ndm nts To The Claims

Complete Listing of the Claims

Claims 1 and 2. (Original)

Claims 3-16. (Previously amended)

Claim 17. (Original)

Claim 18. (Previously Amended)

Claim 19. (New)

19. (New) Method of converting virtually concatenated data streams into continuously concatenated data streams, wherein the data is transmitted in containers which are inserted into pulse frames, a sequence of N containers is combined to form a multiframe, each container is provided with a multiframe indicator relating to its position with respect to time within the multiframe, and the virtually concatenated data streams consist of X partial data streams/channels, containers which are allocated in each case to the same point in the multiframe are identified by evaluation of the multiframe indicator, the time shift of these identified individual containers of the partial data streams with respect to each other is measured, in the event of a shift being present leading containers are delayed in each case by periods of time which ensure that all containers are aligned with respect to time, characterized in that

the containers are buffered, the writing-in procedure is performed individually for each partial data stream and the reading-out procedure is performed in a synchronized manner for all partial data streams, in each channel, fill levels of buffer memories are compared with threshold values, in dependence thereon channel-individual stuff-indications are generated and stuffing operations are performed under consideration of the stuff-indications of all channels, wherein the synchronization of the partial data streams is performed by exchanging time reference values and stuff-indications.